

Message Text

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44

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TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC, ITEM 18; INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

1. THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED GENERAL DEBATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD ITEM 18. THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION, PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT AND NORWEGIAN DELEGATION IS INCLUDED AS PARA 5 OF THIS CABLE. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDS THAT THE GA DECLARE 1979 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD AND DESIGNATE UNICEF AS THE LEAD AGENCY. THE RESOLUTION ALSO ASKS THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A FURTHER REPORT, WITH REVISED ESTIMATES OF COSTS AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS. THIS PROVISION REFLECTS NEARLY UNIVERSAL CRITICISM OF ALLOCATION OF HALF OF THE \$8 MILLION BUDGET FOR 48-PERSON STAFF.

2. USDEL PARTICIPATED IN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP AND BELIEVES THIS DRAFT MEETS US POSITION. USDEL RECOMMENDS SUPPORT FOR THIS DRAFT AND ALSO SUGGESTS US INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO CO-SPONSOR. DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF GENERAL DEBATE INCLUDE STATEMENT BY NORWEGIAN DELEGATION AT OPENING OF
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DEBATE PROMISING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IYC. NO

FURTHER PLEDGES OR HINTS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WERE HEARD. STRONGEST OPPOSITION TO IYC CAME FROM DANISH DELEGATION WHICH NOTED ITS OPPOSITION IN PRINCIPLE TO INTERNATIONAL YEARS AND NO CONTRIBUTION TO IYC WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION. MAJORITY OF OTHER SPEAKERS NOTED VARYING DEGREES OF SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF IYC, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ALL UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND BODIES WERE NOT CO-OPERATING FULLY, SUGGESTED THAT UNICEF BE PRINCIPAL CO-ORDINATING AGENCY, AND INSISTED THAT PREPARED BUEGET AND STAFFING PATTERN BE GIVEN MAJOR OVERHUAL AND BE REVISED DOWNWARD.

5. BEGIN TEXT

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

HAVING CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ENTITLED "MEASURES AND MODALITIES TO ENSURE THE ADEQUATE PREPARATION, SUPPORT AND FINANCING OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD" 1/ PREPARED PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3406 (XXX) AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1962 (LIX);

NOTING THAT MOST DELEGATIONS AGREED ON THE UTILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD FOR ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD, PROVIDED IT WAS ASSURED ADEQUATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT;

CONSIDERING THAT AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD COULD MOST APPROPRIATELY BE ARRANGED IN 1979, THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, AND THAT THE YEAR SHOULD BE DECLARED AT THE 31ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ORDER TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PREPARATIONS;

BELIEVING THAT THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTERESTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD AND THE UNICEF SHOULD BE THE LEAD AGENCY IN PREPARING AND IMPLEMENTING THE YEAR;

1. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR A USEFUL REPORT AND TO THE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND INTERESTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO ITS PREPARATION;

2. TAKES NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER ELABORATION OF PLANS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD;

3. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO SUBMIT TO THE 31ST

SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A FURTHER REPORT, INCLUDING REVISED ESTIMATES OF COSTS AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS, IN LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSION IN THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME COORDINATION COMMITTEE AT THE 61ST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL;

4. RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. DECLARE THE YEAR 1979 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD PROVIDED THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FINANCING HAVE BEEN ENSURED;

B. CALL UPON ALL COMPETENT AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, INCLUDING INFORMATION ACTIVITIES, AND DESIGNATE UNICEF AS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THIS PURPOSE;

5. BELIEVES THAT ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE FURTHER FORMULATION OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD AT SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

6. URGES INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS IN A POSITION TO DO SO, AS WELL AS NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, TO MAKE VOLUNTARY PLEDGES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD. END TEXT. DALE

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